

## Preamble to the Holiness Prayer Guide

The Bible is full of scriptures pertaining to holiness. God commands us to be holy because he is holy. (Lev. 20:26) In order to walk in holiness we need to go through a process of “sanctifying ourselves”. Sanctification means “separation, a setting apart from the secular and sinful and setting apart for a sacred purpose. (New Unger’s Bible Dictionary). Since holiness is a command we are going to embark on thirty-five days of intercession to see it established in our lives, the cities, countries, and nations. We want to sanctify ourselves so that God will do wonders across the face of the earth! Joshua 3:5)

We are on the verge of a new holiness movement. In order to pray correctly, it helps to look back with a short historical perspective on past seasons when the Holy Spirit shone His Light in a special way on this powerful and important biblical truth.

There have been a number of other holiness movements. One of the most important came during the time of John Wesley. Wesley believed that it was possible to reach a state of sanctification where it would be rare that a person sinned. Thus, living a sanctified or mostly sin free life. Not that the stain of original sin was completely removed, but the believer had overcome most temptation to sin.

Phoebe Palmer, (1807-1874) who founded the Five Points Mission in New York City was part of the holiness movement and is said to have influenced Catherine Booth, the cofounder of the Salvation Army.

I do not believe that we as believers ever reach a state where we are totally free of our sin nature in our mortal state. However, I do maintain that it is possible and desirable to reach a point of sanctification where we have set ourselves aside unto God and rarely sin and if we do so, the Holy Spirit immediately convicts us and we repent. We should all desire to become mature in our Christian walk.

Times of revival are important in the process of sanctification as they provide seasons where we examine our lives biblically to see where we measure up to the Word of God. The Lord deals deeply with hidden sin issues that need to be sanctified and cleansed. This can range all the way from anger issues to other places where we have become immune to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in areas of sin and temptation such as pornography and lust.

As a result of this season of intercessions, we are asking God to raise up young revivalist like Evan Roberts from the Welsh Revival to burn brightly with the fire of evangelism and for churches to grow with new converts. The society will enact new laws to reflect the holiness movement.

There was a in the United States and other parts of the world where holiness became associated with an outward emphasis more than an inward one. During that time legalism crept into the church. Women were forbidden to wear make-up, jewelry and cut

their hair. This is not the kind of movement we are talking about for today. Holiness comes from a heart of love for our Lord that never would do anything to sin against the lover of our soul. He is our future bridegroom and we are preparing for a wedding by keeping ourselves pure and spotless. This love causes an outward expression of holiness in the way we dress, speak and live our lives. The inward love influences everything we do externally.

Many of us have prayed for the transformation of our nations. One important step in seeing this happen is to become a holy nation. However, we cannot point the finger at the sins of our nation without going through a purging of our inner selves as well as cleansing of the church. Judgment must first begin at the house of God before we can change our nations! (I Peter 4:17)

As we, the church, walk in purity, we will see a new generation arise who will reform our nations so they can stay transformed! God will raise up reformers like William Wilberforce who fought so valiantly to change the laws of parliament in England to make the slave trade illegal. Some in the church and from the pulpit believed and taught that the Bible supported slavery during his era as he battled to cleanse the nation. We will see our modern day battles such as that against abortion won in the hearts of the people and the courts of the land if we don't faint in the day of adversity.

Wilberforce reformed England because he knew how to read his Bible correctly and applied it to his society. We need modern day reformers who have sanctified their reasoning! Who know how to love God not only with their hearts and souls, but their minds and their neighbors as themselves! (Matthew 22:37-40) Holiness teaching produces holy reasoning!

This prayer guide will take us through steps of personal cleansing as well as intercession for the cleansing of the church; all the way to national cleansing. There are many of us as believers who commit the same or similar things as those who do not even know the Lord at all! Pornography, adultery and other kinds of sexual sins will be exposed on an individual and corporate scale, both during, before, and after our prayer time. Corruption will be exposed on national levels as well.

This prayer guide has the focus of "building a highway of holiness" for God from Isaiah 35. We want to see a new holiness movement break out across the face of the earth so the world will know that we believe what the Bible says is true! One of the aspects of that passage is healing. (verses 5-6) The last five days of our prayer will focus on healing for physical needs such as cancer and aids. At the end of our 35 days of prayer together, we will ask the Lord to start a new holiness prayer movement that will sweep the face of the globe.

Welcome to the walk of holiness! We are off on a great world-wide adventure where we cry out to God and tell him that we want to be holy as he is holy!